**Meaghan Kountze**

**Article Reflection: 1**

**“Men and Their Hidden Feelings” by Richard Cohen**

Article Summary:

Article URL: <http://myweb.cwpost.liu.edu/lbai/Data/menandtheirhiddenfeelings.html>

This article was written by a man named Richard Cohen and in it he addresses the stereotype that men do not show emotion and make the conscious decision to hide their feelings. According to Richard Cohen, the relationship between men consists of nothing, but casualness. Men by definition do not have real friendships, they have acquaintances. Their “friends” are not people that they feel close to or confide in, they serve more as people to pass some time with. Cohen states that this characteristic is one that men learn at a young age, they are taught by their fathers to keep their feeling to themselves.

Cohen mentions in his article that men have all of the “survival qualities” that they would have needed for some other age and are in need of reprogramming to make them compatible with the current age in which they live. Cohen concludes his article by stating that this “manly way of life” bothers him, but rather than discuss it, he bottles it up. He wishes that men were like women and could form emotional connections to other people and questions whether or not this can ever be done.

Article Reflection:

I feel that this article could definitely be seen as offensive to some men. It is very risky to make broad assumptions of any particular group of people. When you make such statements that classify men and women such as: “men cannot have friends” or “women are dominated by their emotions”, you are just setting yourself up for failure. If just one of your male readers has male friends that they open their hearts to or just one of your female readers is not the least bit emotional, your entire article has lost its credibility. With that said, I still feel that Cohen successfully presents these stereotypes in his article because the article as a whole is his personal opinion and it is not presented as anything more serious than that. If he peddled this article as a collection of facts, then it would be critiqued more closely.

As far as the ideas Cohen expresses in his article are concerned, I am impartial. While there are some men that I know that do indeed fit this stereotype and have this “macho-man” “crying is for girls” mentality, there are other men that I know that are comfortable with emotional expression and are not intimidated or feel the least bit ashamed of that fact. While I am sure Cohen accurately described many men, there are plenty of men who do not fit this stereotype who are comfortable with feelings, just as there are plenty of women do not fit their stereotype and are not hysterically emotional. Having emotions has nothing to do with being feminine; it is what makes us human. And while having emotions and consciously choosing to bottle them up may appeal to some men like Richard Cohen, it in no way defines all men.